REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-15 and 17-20, which are independent claims, are hereby amended.

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II.   REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over WO 99/01984 to Maissel, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Maissel") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,549 to Hendricks, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hendricks").

III.   RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A transmitting apparatus for providing digital content, comprising:

...**meta information schema storing means for storing a meta information schema that defines the data structure of meta**

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**information about the content data according to the content
data that is transmitted,**

**wherein the meta information schema is periodically updated
to effectively add, delete, and transmit the meta information
and to improve a searching efficiency of the meta
information**…

…**wherein attributes, whose applied frequencies are low as
indicated by the use history information are deleted from said
meta information schema**…

…**wherein the inference rule defines a rule for which an
attribute value is newly obtained from a relation between
segments**." (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, the Office Action relies on Maissel to reject the

above identified features in claim 1. Maissel relates to "a subscriber unit for use in a television

system including a television network and transmitting apparatus for transmitting program

schedule information, the subscriber unit including a receiving unit for receiving the program

schedule information, a profile storage unite for storing at least one viewer preference profile of

at least one television viewer, an intelligent agent for customizing program schedule information

based on, at least part, on the viewer preference profile, to produce a program guide including

customized program schedule information, and display apparatus for displaying the program

guide." (Maissel, abstract)

Applicants submit that Maissel fails to disclose or suggest "meta information

schema storing means for storing a meta information schema that defines the data structure of

meta information about the content data according to the content data that is transmitted, wherein

the meta information schema is periodically updated to effectively add, delete, and transmit the

meta information and to improve a searching efficiency of the meta information" and "wherein

attributes, whose applied frequencies are low as indicated by the use history information are

deleted from said meta information schema", as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis

added).

      As understood by Applicants, Maissel discloses "*channel number, starting date,*

starting time, ending date, ending time, name of program, description of program, name of at

least one actor in program, name of director of program, program provider, price of program;

and classification criteria" as meta information of the program schedule information (Maissel,

page 16-17). An intelligent agent of Maissel is operative to customize the program schedule

information (Maissel, page 20, lines 19-31, see Office action, page 4). Maissel indeed discloses

that customization of the program schedule information includes "*changing the order in which*

programs appear in the program guide; changing the order in which channels appear in the

program guide; removing certain programs from or adding certain programs to the program

guide…,…and any other appropriate kind of customization" (Maissel, page 21, lines 1-21, see

Office action, page 4 and 5), but the customization does not include changing meta information.

Maissel's intelligent agent does not update the meta information and structure of meta schema,

as recited in claim 1. As understood by Applicants, the cited portion of Maissel does not teach or

suggest that meta information and metal information schema of a program schedule information

are customized. Applicants respectfully submit that Maissel does not disclose or suggest "meta

information schema storing means for storing a meta information schema that defines the data

structure of meta information about the content data according to the content data that is

transmitted, wherein the meta information schema is periodically updated to effectively add,

delete, and transmit the meta information and to improve a searching efficiency of the meta

information" and "wherein attributes, whose applied frequencies are low as indicated by the use

history information are deleted from said meta information schema", as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that Maissel and Hendricks, take alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above identified features in claim 1.

In addition, Applicant submit that Maissel and Hendricks, take alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest "wherein the inference rule defines a rule for which an attribute value is newly obtained according to a relation between segments", as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10-15 and 17-20 are similar in scope and are patentable for similar reasons.

IV.   DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
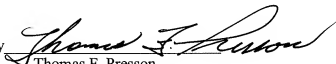

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

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Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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